

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-21 are currently pending in the application. Claims 11 and 14 are hereby cancelled.

Claims 1-4, 8, 9 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 676,509 (McNown) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,018,017 (Hill). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over McNown in view of Hill and further in view of WO 91/05128 (Dahlstedt). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over McNown in view of Hill and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,679,280, to Friederich et al (Friederich). Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over McNown in view of Hill and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,286,269 (Marcum). Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over McNown in view of Hill, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,266,386 (Bains).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-10, 12, 13 and 15-21 is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Fitzgerald for the courtesies extended him during the interview on February 26, 2004.

During the interview, an amendment to claim 1, to incorporate the limitations of claims 11 and 14, was discussed. The Examiner indicated that claim 1, amended to include the limitations of claims 11 and 14, would be "favorably considered" and place the application in better condition for allowance. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 11 and 14 and is believed allowable.

The remaining claims 2-5, 8-10, 12, 13 and 15-21 depend cognately from claim 1 and recite further significant structural details to further distinguish over the art of record.

Entry of the amendment, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-10, 12, 13 and 15-21, and allowance of the case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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